

1 John 5:1-21

Exhortations and Warnings for All Christians

Teachings in 1 John 5:1-21

1. The relationship of right belief, love for God and other believers, and obedience to Scripture 5:1-5
2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13
3. How to be confident in prayer 5:14-15
4. Sinning that leads unto death 5:16-18
5. A warning about idolatry 5:19-21

1. The relationship of right belief, love for God and other believers, and obedience to Scripture 5:1-5

^{ESV} **1 John 5:1** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

• **True belief in Jesus is required to be born again and includes:**

- That He has come in the flesh 4:2
- That He is God's Son 4:15
- That He is the Messiah 2:22
- That He is the Savior of the world 4:14

1. The relationship of right belief, love for God and other believers, and obedience to Scripture 5:1-5

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

- **Love for God, and love for other Christians demonstrates that we are obeying His commandments.**
- **God's commandments are not burdensome!**

1. The relationship of right belief, love for God and other believers, and obedience to Scripture 5:1-5

⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- **Saving faith produces the fruit of obedience and enables a Christian to live in victory over the temptations of the world.** (2:15-17; 3:1, 13; 4:1-6)

1. The relationship of right belief, love for God and other believers, and obedience to Scripture 5:1-5

Summary:

- Christian believers are God's children, born from above.
- God's children are loved by all who love God.
- Those who love God also keep his commands.
- They keep his commands because they overcome the world, and they overcome the world because they are Christian believers, born from above

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

⁷ For there are three that testify:

⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- **The “water and blood” refer to the terminal points in Jesus’ earthly ministry: his baptism (water) and his crucifixion (blood).**

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

- **Jesus “came” into his power by the “water” of his baptism and even more so by the “blood” of his cross.**

- **In support of Jesus’ historical life and death, John appeals to the testimony of the Holy Spirit.**

“And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

- **John says we should accept God’s testimony because it is God’s testimony about His Son.**

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony (the witness) in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

- **Believing what God says about His Son results in having God’s “testimony” or “witness” in our heart.**
- **Since it is the Holy Spirit that enables Christian Belief – John is saying a Christian who “believes” what God says has the inner testimony of the Spirit in his heart – “in himself”.**

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

- **The external witness of the “water,” “the blood,” and the “Spirit,” faithfully accepted becomes internal certitude.**

2. Belief in the Son and the Witness of the Spirit to Eternal life 5:6-13

¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- **Eternal life is the gift of a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, enabled by the Holy Spirit.**

3. How to be Confident in Prayer 5:14-15

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- **One condition for answered prayer in 1 John 3:22 is that “we obey his commands and do what pleases him.”**
- **Another condition for answered prayer is that our petitions are “according to his will.”**

3. How to be Confident in Prayer 5:14-15

- **Sometimes our desires are not God’s desires for us.**
- **Sometimes what we want is not what our heavenly Father wills.**
- **Faith will accept that God’s will is best, and it will trust his plan and purpose, even if it does not understand at the time.**
- **Having “faith” is not the only prerequisite for obtaining what we ask for in prayer!**

4. Sinning that leads unto death 5:16-18

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life-- to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

4. Sinning that leads unto death 5:16-18

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

- **Persistent sinning, without genuine repentance which involves stopping willful sin, will result in spiritual death.**
- **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mat. 12:32) is unforgiveable (Mark 3:29).**
- **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is claiming Jesus’ mighty works were done not by the Holy Spirit but by Satan.**

5: A warning against idolatry 5:19-21

¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

5: A warning against idolatry 5:19-21

- **The literal use of “idols” is rare in the New Testament.**
- **It is best to understand this warning as “anything which occupies in your life the place due to God.”**
- **Don’t allow anything to occupy the time, the loyalty, and the place in your life that God rightly deserves.**

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